

CHAPTER 3 SECTION 16.7

SCLERAL SHELL PROTHESIS

Issue Date: March 7, 1990

Authority: [32 CFR 199.4\(d\)\(3\)\(vii\)](#)

I. PROCEDURE CODE

67550 and 67560

II. POLICY

A scleral shell prosthesis may be a cost-shared item. A scleral shell prosthesis is a type of hard shell contact lens which covers the outer portion of the eye. In situations when the eye is non-functional and shrunken by disease, a scleral shell may preclude the need for surgery and a complete prosthetic eye implant. It also serves to support the surrounding tissue of the eyeball. In some cases scleral shells are used in combination with artificial tears in the treatment of "dry eye". When the lacrimal gland (tear gland) fails to provide lubrication for the eye, the scleral shell serves to protect against drying and prolongs the life of the artificial tears. When used accordingly, a scleral shell may be considered to be an artificial eye and payment may be made under [32 CFR 199.4\(d\)\(3\)\(vii\)](#) with the proper documentation of medical necessity. A scleral shell may not be reimbursed merely as a cosmetic device.

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